DC SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE
SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND
LOIS LANE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FEB.
NO. 108
15¢
IF ANYONE KNOWS JUST CAUSE WHY LOIS LANE AND SUPERMAN MAY NOT BE WED, LET HIM SPEAK NOW, OR FOREVER HOLD HIS PEACE!
STOP THE WEDDING! I OBJECT!
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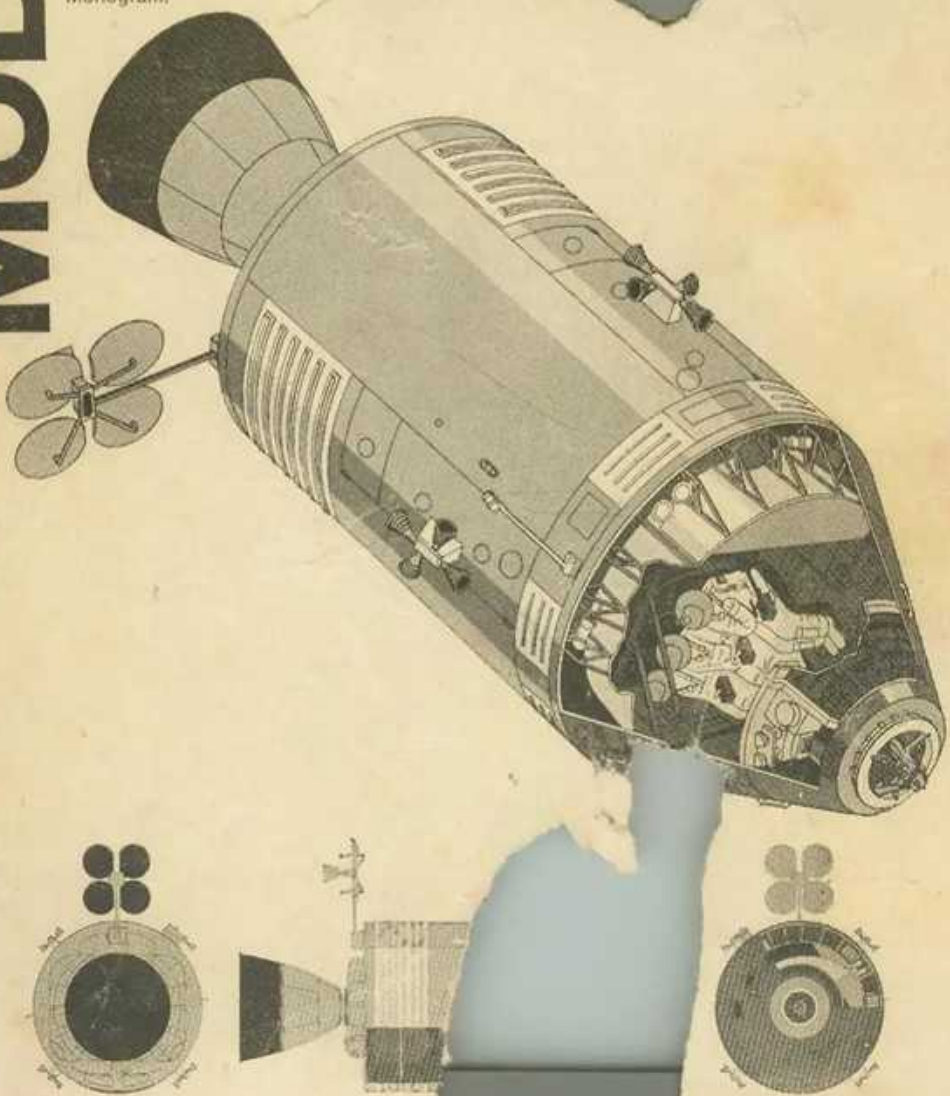

SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE

A FLASHLIGHT BEAM STABS OUT AT FADED PARCHMENT IN A PITCH-DARK, WINDOWLESS ROOM...
...horror ran through the land. Men and women shuddered at the dreadful details they read in the evening Times. The superstitious said that the sunset sky was of a deeper red that autumn...
AND IN THE NEXT ROOM OF SIR NOEL TATE'S HOME...
SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE... BUT I THOUGHT I HEARD VOICES IN MY SOUVENIR ROOM!
DOESN'T HURT TO CHECK, SIR NOEL! WE CAN RESUME THE INTERVIEW LATER!
UHHHH!
THAT TAKES CARE O' HIM!
WAIT--WE GOTTA GET RID OF HER NOW! I RECOGNIZE THAT FACE!
SHE'S A REPORTER--LOIS LANE!
AND SO BEGINS THE RETURN OF A NIGHTMARE FROM A CENTURY GONE BY, AS LOIS IS ABOUT TO MEET...
THE SPECTRE SUITOR!
SCRIPT: CARY BATES
PENCILS: WERNER ROTH
INKS: VINCE COLLETTA

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LIGHTS ARE SWITCHED ON--AND IT'S TOO LATE FOR THE FEMALE REPORTER TO BACK OUT..
HATE TO MESS UP HER PRETTY FACE!
NO CHOICE! SHE'S ALREADY SEEN OUR FACES NOW!
CRAAACK
I'LL PROBABLY NEVER WALK OUT OF HERE ALIVE.. BUT I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM TO RUB ME OUT!
OOOFF! THIS DAME IS A REGULAR WILDCAT!
GET BACK! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER!
LET'S SEE WHAT A PURSE CAN DO AGAINST THIS!
GOOD GOD! IS THIS HOW MY LIFE IS TO END? NOT EVEN WITH SUPERMAN AT MY SIDE?
2

A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE CERTAIN AND GRUESOME DEATH-- SOMETHING INTERVENES...
W-WHAT HAPPENED? I DIDN'T DO THAT!!
UHHHHH! WHAT MADE ME BELT MYSELF!?
BRRR! SOME SORT OF EERIE COLDNESS IS NUDGING AT MY BODY.. SHOVING ME DOWN HERE NEXT TO SIR NOEL!
IT'S AS IF SOMEONE ELSE WERE IN THE ROOM!
SUDDENLY, INEXPLICABLY, HEAVY CHUNKS OF PLASTER START FALLING FROM ABOVE...
IT'S UNCANNY! THE CEILING IS CAVING IN ALL AROUND US-- KNOCKING OUT TWO OF THE BURGLARS!
BUT WE'RE MIRACULOUSLY UNHARMED!
7
3

THOSE OLD ENGLISH RELICS OF TATE'S ARE WORTH HALF A MILLION-- BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE IN HIS COLLECTION THAT AIN'T HUMAN!
I FELT IT!
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER LOIS HAS CALLED THE POLICE...
M-MISS LANE--PLEASE LISTEN! A SUPERNATURAL ENTITY WAS AT WORK HERE TONIGHT!
I FEAR THE GHOST OF A RELATIVE OF MINE HAS TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU... AND THAT MEANS YOU'RE IN GREAT DANGER!
POOR TATE'S DELIRIOUS! WHO BELIEVES IN GHOSTS TODAY?
NEXT DAY, IN THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING...
LOIS, COULD YOU STEP INTO PERRY'S OFFICE A MINUTE? HE WANTS TO TELL YOU SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT!
SURE, JIMMY!
MERE SECONDS AFTER LOIS HAS LEFT HER OFFICE--HER PHONE RINGS! AND IT IS ANSWERED...
MISS LANE? SIR NOEL TATE HERE!
I WAS HOPING I WOULDN'T HAVE TO REVEAL THE DREADFUL TRUTH ABOUT THE GHOST... BUT NOW I FEEL I MUST TELL YOU EVERYTHING!
GO AHEAD, SIR NOEL! I'M LISTENING!
THE GHOST HAS BEEN HAUNTING MY MANSION FOR DECADES NOW... APPARENTLY IT CAME OVER FROM ENGLAND WITH A CERTAIN HEIRLOOM!
MY MOTHER IS DESCENDED FROM HIS BROTHER!
MEANWHILE...
JIMMY, YOU'RE HAVING DELUSIONS! I NEVER ASKED YOU TO BRING LOIS TO MY OFFICE!
N-NO, YOU DIDN'T! I CAN'T FIGURE WHAT POSSESSED ME TO TELL LOIS THAT!

...SO BE SURE TO CALL ME IF YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE, MISS LANE! BELIEVE ME, THAT GHOST IS DIABOLICALLY CLEVER!
THANK YOU FOR THE WARNING, SIR NOEL!
ONLY A SECOND LATER, LOIS RETURNS...
NOW TO GET BACK TO WORK SO I CAN LEAVE THE PLANET EARLY TODAY!
SUPERMAN IS RETURNING TONIGHT FROM A MISSION IN SPACE...AND I'M PLANNING A ROMANTIC CANDLELIGHT DINNER FOR THE TWO OF US!
BUT AFTER LEAVING HER OFFICE--ON THE WAY HOME, LOIS IS STRANGELY SIDE-TRACKED..
THIS IS ODD..WHY AM I WALKING THROUGH THIS SLUM DISTRICT? MY APARTMENT IS CLEAR ACROSS TOWN!
POOL PARLOR
INTO TREACHEROUS BACK ALLEYS VENTURES THE BEAUTIFUL REPORTER, GUIDED BY WHAT SHE KNOWS NOT..
PLEASE..LET'S TALK THIS THING OVER! MAYBE WE CAN WORK OUT A DEAL!
TOO LATE FOR THAT! YOU'VE EVICTED ENOUGH PEOPLE WHEN THEY COULDN'T PAY YOUR SKY-HIGH RENTS!
SOMEONE'S IN TROUBLE!
H-HERE...TAKE ALL THE MONEY YOU WANT! JUST DON'T SHOOT!
YOU'LL KEEP SQUEEZING US DRY AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE! SEE IF YOU CAN BUY OFF A BULLET!
5

AT THAT INSTANT...
THERE IT IS AGAIN--THAT EERIE COLDNESS IS PASSING THROUGH MY BODY, JUST AS IT DID IN SIR NOEL'S HOUSE!
AND I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW!
AND JUST BEFORE THE GUN'S TRIGGER IS PULLED...
UHHHH... MY HEART!
IS THIS SOME KIND OF TRICK?
HUH! HE'S REALLY DEAD!
AND THE UNFORTUNATE WRETCH WON'T HAVE TO FACE A MURDER CHARGE, SINCE I CAUSED HIS CRUEL LANDLORD TO DIE OF "NATURAL CAUSES"! HE'S THE FIRST MAN I'VE KILLED!
THE INHUMANE CONDITIONS HERE DISGUST ME ALMOST AS MUCH AS LONDON'S EAST END DID...83 YEARS AGO!
I RECOGNIZED THAT LANDLORD--"BLAZER" GREENE... A RACKETEER WHO HAS BEATEN SEVERAL MURDER RAPS IN THE PAST!
BUT I'M SURE IT WAS MORE THAN JUST FEAR THAT KILLED HIM!
THAT EVENING...
LOIS--?
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
6

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LOIS...YOU LOOK TERRIFIC! THAT DRESS IS A KNOCKOUT!
HOPE SUPERMAN DOESN'T SEE HOW EXHAUSTED THE LAST 24 HOURS HAVE MADE ME!
IF I START DESCRIBING THE RECENT WEIRD HAPPENINGS, HE'LL THINK I'M CRACKING UP!
I CAN SENSE THIS MAN IS A FANTASTICALLY POWERFUL BEING, NOT A NATIVE OF EARTH!
BUT NEVERTHELESS, I MUST DEAL WITH HIM! I WILL TOLERATE NO RIVAL FOR THIS WOMAN'S LOVE!
AN UNDETECTABLE, SUPERNATURAL INTELLIGENCE PERVADES SUPERMAN'S MIND--SIFTING THROUGH HIS MEMORIES FOR A WEAKNESS...
SUPERMAN--WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME SO STRANGELY?
I-IT'S YOUR EYE! SOMETHING I'M BEGINNING TO SEE IN YOUR LEFT EYE!
DEEPER, DEEPER INTO THE IRIS OF HER EYE STARES THE ACTION ACE--UNTIL HE DISCERNS A POIGNANT, HEART-MELTING FACE...
I...CAN'T MAKE IT OUT YET!
AN IMAGE IS FORMING, COMING INTO FOCUS--
GREAT KRYPTON! I SEE THE FACE OF MY MOTHER--LARA! BUT SHE DIED WHEN I WAS STILL AN INFANT!
7

SUPERMAN'S GAZE IS TOTALLY CONCENTRATED ON LOIS AS THE HORRIFYING HALLUCINATION PLAYS ITSELF OUT...
S-SHE'S RUNNING AWAY FROM SOMETHING...
WHATEVER IT IS... SHE'S TERRIFIED! SCARED OUT OF HER WITS!
NOW SHE'S SCREAMING! JUST WHO IS THAT APPROACHING HER!? THIS IS TOO AGONIZING TO WATCH--!
SUDDENLY, THE NIGHTMARISH VISION IS SHATTERED BY SHRILL FEMININE LAUGHTER..
HOW CAN SHE LAUGH-- AFTER WHAT I JUST SAW!?
HA HA HA HA HA HA
SHUT UP!!
MOMENTARY RAGE SEARS THROUGH THE MAN OF STEEL, BUT...
GREAT SUNS! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO STRIKE THE GIRL I LOVE!
I ALMOST LOST CONTROL OF THIS ACCURSED STRENGTH... I MIGHT'VE KILLED HER!
I MUST GO AWAY FOR A WHILE... PULL MYSELF TOGETHER!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAUSED THAT AGONIZING ILLUSION, BUT IT'S REALLY SHAKEN ME UP!
8
CONTINUED ON 2 SE PAGE FOLLOWING

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I WAS COMPELLED TO LAUGH--FOR NO REASON AT ALL!
NO USE DENYING THE TRUTH! SOME SUPERNATURAL PRESENCE HAS BEEN WITH ME SINCE LAST NIGHT! IT'S EVEN COME BETWEEN SUPERMAN AND ME!
IN THE DEPTHS OF SLEEP, LOIS DREAMS OF HER MAN--AND HER WEDDING DAY...
IF THERE BE ANYONE WHO KNOWS JUST CAUSE WHY THIS COUPLE MAY NOT BE JOINED, LET HIM SPEAK NOW, OR FOREVER HOLD HIS PEACE!
I OBJECT!
SUPERMAN MUST NOT MARRY LOIS! SHE IS MINE AND I AM HERS! THAT IS TO BE OUR DESTINY!
SOON YOU AND I SHALL BE TOGETHER LIKE THIS FOR ALL ETERNITY, LOIS! NOTHING WILL EVER SEPARATE US!
WHO ARE YOU? WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?
GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
AND WHILE LOIS SUFFERS THROUGH AN AGONIZING NIGHT--AN UNSEEN HAND IS AT WORK...
9

MORNING...
Dearest Lois--
I am of another land, another century, and have long since been without a mortal body. But no such obstacles can diminish the love I have for you. Since I'm unable to join your world... you will soon join mine.
Yours forever, John
GOOD GRIEF! SO THAT EXPLAINS IT-- A GHOST WHO'S IN LOVE WITH ME!
NO WONDER HE DIDN'T WANT SUPERMAN HERE... HE WAS JEALOUS!
BUT HOW DOES A GIRL DITCH A PHANTOM SUITOR?

SOON, IN THE PRODUCTION ROOM OF THE PLANET...
WHAT'S THE VERDICT, MIKE? CAN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HANDWRITING ANALYSIS TELL ME WHAT SORT OF MIND I'M DEALING WITH?
STAY AWAY FROM THIS "JOHN" CHARACTER, LOIS...

ALL THE SIGNS ARE HERE! THE PERSON WHO WROTE THIS IS INSANE... I SEE A WARPED, DISTORTED SENSE OF REALITY!
HE MAY THINK HE HAS GOOD INTENTIONS-- BUT HE'S A PSYCHOPATH!

ZZZZTT!
HE DID IT! MY GHOST SUITOR IS ANGRY AGAIN!
EULP! THE ENLARGER SHORT-CIRCUITED! THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!
I'M FRIGHTENED... I NEED HELP!

BUT THE FIRST TIME LOIS TRIES TO EXPLAIN THE DANGER SHE'S IN...
OH, NO! THE GHOST HAS ROBBED ME OF MY VOICE, SO I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT HIM!
LOIS--YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE LARYNGITIS!
JIMMY, DRIVE HER HOME!

OWWW... A SHARP PAIN IS SHOOTING THROUGH MY HANDS, SO I CAN'T WRITE OUT A PLEA FOR HELP!
I'VE NEVER NEEDED SUPERMAN MORE THAN NOW... YET HE CAN'T SAVE ME!

THE REST OF THE DAY, LOIS IS A HELPLESS PRISONER OF THE POSSESSIVE SPIRIT...
...AND THE METROPOLIS VICINITY WILL BE IN FOR SEVERE THUNDER STORMS THIS EVENING!
AH! TONIGHT IT IS, THEN! CONDITIONS WILL BE PERFECT!
IN A FEW SHORT HOURS, LOIS WILL BE MINE FOR ALL TIME!

LATER, AFTER LOIS HAS FALLEN ASLEEP...
THE HOUR OF RECKONING HAS COME, LOIS! RISE FROM YOUR BED AND GO PRECISELY WHERE I DIRECT YOU!
YES...

MIDNIGHT--AT THE TATE MANSION! AN UNEARTHLY FORCE SUDDENLY SHATTERS A WINDOW...
CRAASH

GOOD! NOW PROCEED TO THE TROPHY ROOM! THE REINFORCED DOOR CANNOT STOP YOU!

CRUUUNNCH!
THERE! GO INSIDE AND REMOVE EXACTLY WHAT I TELL YOU!

THOSE NOISES-- SOMEONE'S BREAKING IN! I JUST HOPE IT ISN'T... HIM!
MOMENTS LATER...
GOOD LORD! THIS IS WHAT I FEARED-- THE GHOST HAS REPOSSESSED HIS DIRK!* HE MUST'VE COMMANDED MISS LANE TO STEAL IT FOR HIM!
I MUST GET WORD TO SUPERMAN! I'LL CALL HIS FRIEND, KENT!
* A DIRK IS A LONG, SLENDER DAGGER!
THE PHONE RINGS IN CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT...
ER...THIS IS SUPERMAN! YES, CLARK SUMMONED ME BECAUSE LOIS IS MISSING! SHE'D BEEN ILL, SO HE TRIED TO CALL HER!
WHAT A RELIEF! TATE THINKS HE CAN TELL ME WHERE SHE IS...BUT SAYS I WON'T BELIEVE IT!
MEANWHILE, ON A BLEAK HILL OUTSIDE METROPOLIS, AMID THE FURY OF A VIOLENT STORM...
FOLLOWING A SILENT COMMAND, LOIS POINTS A WICKED, GLEAMING WEAPON TO THE HEAVENS-- AND THEN...
IT'S HAPPENING! WE'RE BRIDGING THE GULFS OF TIME AND SPACE!
THIS IS MY ONE CHANCE TO MAKE LOIS MINE... AND I MUST NOT FAIL!
12

LOIS AWAKENS ...ON A STREET IN A DISTANT CITY... MANY YEARS AGO...
STRANGE...THIS LOOKS LIKE PICTURES I'VE SEEN OF LONDON'S WHITECHAPEL DISTRICT, DURING THE LAST CENTURY!
THAT MAN... SOMETHING ABOUT HIM... FRIGHTENS ME!
OH, GOD! I UNDERSTAND! THE NOTE...
...WAS SIGNED "JOHN"! AND A NICKNAME FOR JOHN IS...
JACK!
DIE!
BUT THEN...
NO! YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS... NOT ONE OF THEM!
13

AS THE KILLER'S FLEEING FOOTSTEPS FADE INTO THE NIGHT...
LOIS! THANK GOD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
SIR NOEL WAS ABLE TO PINPOINT THE APPROXIMATE TIME-PERIOD FOR ME...I HAD TO SIFT THROUGH TEN WEEKS AT SUPER-SPEED BEFORE I FOUND HER ON NOVEMBER 8, 1888!
THE RIPPER! IT WAS JACK THE RIPPER WHO WANTED ME!
TAKE IT EASY...HE'S GONE NOW! WE'RE GOING BACK THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER, TO 1971!
THEN, AT SIR NOEL'S HOME...
THAT'S HIM--THE BLACK SHEEP OF MY MOTHER'S FAMILY! HIS RELATIVES SUSPECTED HE WAS THE RIPPER... BUT BEFORE THEY COULD COMMIT HIM TO AN ASYLUM, HE FLED!
A FEW WEEKS LATER, HIS BODY WAS FISHED OUT OF THE THAMES! THAT WAS DECEMBER, 1888...OVER A MONTH AFTER THE LAST RIPPER MURDER!
BUT WHY DID HE...?
WE THINK THE HORRIBLE CONDITIONS OF THE EAST END SIMPLY BUCKLED HIS UNSTABLE MIND! HE HATED THE EVIL OF THE PLACE--AND STRUCK OUT AT THE WOMEN MOST STEEPED IN THAT EVIL!
THAT'S WHY HE COULDN'T KILL YOU, MISS LANE...
AS A SPIRIT, HE SENT YOU BACK IN TIME... SO HE, HIMSELF, COULD KILL YOU...AS HE'D KILLED BEFORE...BUT HE COULDN'T ALTER HIS OWN INSANE BEHAVIOR PATTERN!
SO HE SPARED YOU...AND WENT OFF TO KILL HIS LAST VICTIM!
SO NOT EVEN A GHOST CAN CHANGE HISTORY! BUT I WONDER... WHERE IS HE NOW--?
DON'T WORRY, LOIS! THE DIRK WAS HIS ONE LINK WITH THE WORLD OF THE LIVING! AND IN HIS EAGERNESS TO HAVE YOU JOIN HIM, HE DESTROYED THAT!
Ende
14

DIRECT CURRENTS

SUGAR AND SPIKE, Sheldon Mayer's titillating tots, meet **Raymond,** the "New Kid on the Block!" He's a black boy, and believe it or not, there's a wild mix-up of kids when he joins our half-pint hurricanes. This has to be one of the most hilarious comedies of errors since **Shakespeare's** time! It's the **March** issue, **#94,** on the stands **Dec. 15!**

Learn the secret background of the **Unknown Soldier's** right-hand man in the **March** ish of **STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (#155).** It's a strange, untold tale of war and heroism—and human emotion—all in the tradition you've learned to expect in a **DC** war mag! Oh, yes—**Enemy Ace** is on hand again, too, for all you fans of **World War I** air action! Better be ready—it goes on sale **Dec. 24!** So give yourself a Christmas present!

Have I got a ghost story for you! It seems this phantom falls for **LOIS LANE** and starts using his supernatural tricks to win her away from **Superman!** But that's not all—"The Spectre Suitor" has decided **Lois** must join him in the spirit world! And he has a plan to doom her—where the **Man of Might** can't interfere! Also in this **February** issue **(#108): Rose and the Thorn** in a stunner entitled "Mourn for the **Thorn!**" It opens with the **Thorn** lying in her coffin! On sale **Dec. 29.**

Since we got rid of all **Green Kryptonite on Earth** in a recent **Superman** ish, and **Supergirl** doesn't have her cousin's new weakness, she's in a pretty good spot, right? **Wrong!** A villainess named **Starfire** and a handsome hood combine to hand her a brand-new **Achilles heel** when "Love Conquers All—Even **Supergirl!**" It's the **February** issue of **ADVENTURE (#402),** on sale **Dec. 29**—also featuring another exciting **Tracey Thompson** tale!

Remember **Dr. Tzin-Tzin,** the **American Mandarin** who battled **The Batman?** He's back in "The House That Haunted Batman," a **Len Wein-Marv Wolfman** story (their first for the **Cowled Crusader**), illoed by **Neal Adams!** You'll find **Robin** back with **The Batman** in this tale. Also, **Frank Robbins** recently vacationed in **Spain,** so where do you think his latest **Batgirl** blockbuster takes place? Well, the title may give you a clue—"The Phantom Bull-fighter!" **February DETECTIVE (#408),** on sale **Dec. 31.**

In the greatest **Imaginary Tale** yet, you'll learn "The Secret of the Wheelchair **Superman!**" Yes—the **Man of Steel** is amazingly converted into a helpless cripple! It's in the **February ACTION (#397),** which hits the stands **Dec. 31**—and that's only the cover story! There's also another **Tale of the Fortress**—"The Super-Captive Beneath the Sea!" In this one, **Supie** has to move underwater and use his **sub-sea Fortress!**

Wow! More than 120,000 of you have answered our survey. Our readers are the greatest. In March all DC comics will announce who got the **color TV set,** the **bicycles,** the **record players** and the **transistor radios.**

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Dear Editor:

What can I say but GREAT? LOIS LANE #105 is, of course, of what I'm speaking. You showed Lois just as I love her, sharp! And the Thorn is too much for words!

The *Thorn* is an interesting cross. The mystery of *The Batman* and the same cause for vengeance. The basic wigged super-heroine and quiet alter-ego of the Black Canary. But the idea of a super-heroine who is simply mentally ill, namely with schizophrenia, is, well, super-lative. Rose promises to be the most interesting schizophrenic since Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

Now that I have told you how brilliant you are, I would like to give you a few words of warning.

Don't have Lois or Superman meet Rose. One of the Thorn's best features is that the eyes who are wondering who she is don't know her alter ego. One Clark Kent is enough!

Don't have the Man of Steel follow Thorn up with his visionary powers. Of course, he could, but it makes better reading to see him as stumped as Lois.

Don't get Lex Luthor involved with the 100. I can't help but feel that the way you characterize them, it would be wrong. It would be out of character for them to accept an outsider as a leader, let alone one who has tried so often and failed so miserably to kill Superman. Furthermore, organized street crime isn't Lex's thing.

I'll end my letter with a few requests, namely:

Please—don't leave Lana all alone and out in the cold. Have her fall in love and get married. To whom? How about ol' Pete Ross? I've always thought that they'd make a cute couple.

Please—keep Lois her liberated self. Don't soften her up; also, keep Rose quiet and don't turn her into a swinger.

Barbara Reader, New Hyde Park, N.Y.

(We're glad to get no barbs from Barbara. As for Lana, we have plans for next issue that include a neat disposal of her for the time being—until we decide definitely what to do with her. We are open to suggestions.—E.N.B.)

*****

Dear Mr. Bridwell:

You've made so many changes—some subtle, some explosive—in the Oct. LOIS LANE that it's hard to get my thoughts on the issue sorted out. Oh, well, here goes—but warning's fair, so I'll tell you right off that there were a lot of things I didn't like.

However, I *did* like the cover. Curt Swan did an excellent job, conjuring up a scene containing the best elements of mystery and suspense, added to his expert drawings. Now to the next thing, which is the story. All right, I'll grant you "Death House Honeymoon" had a workable plotline—workable, at least, until Robert Kanigher started to fill it with a lot of cliches and soap-opera situations. I think the main problem was the dialogue, which was (being polite) just plain awful. We muddle through to the ending, and Mr. K has decided to make it sentimental. Or has he? One minute after Lois' husband dies (Trying to save her life, yet!) our thoughtful girl reporter is running off thinking only of her "sensational eye-witness scoop of marriage and murder!" But let's not be too hard on Lois; after all, every key will tear into her heart like a dagger, poor thing! As for that trite last line, it was inexcusable. Period.

Now let's skip over to "Night of the Thorn." Well, at least it was handled better than the previous tale. Undoubtedly you will get letters from many fans hailing Rose and the Thorn as "a sensational breakthrough" and "the most original character in years." I *know*—because I was ready to write such a letter after seeing the ads. You have disappointed me, though. The Thorn seems to be just a female Batman, out to avenge her father's death—with a dash of Jekyll-Hyde thrown in for good measure. Well, the strip might be okay on its own in some other mag, but it just doesn't seem to fit into LOIS LANE.

Artwork-wise, things went a little better. Andru and Esposito are good, and they did an admirable job their first time out on a Lois Lane tale, but they still don't seem quite right for LL. If I were you, I'd put Kurt Schaffenberger back on LOIS LANE, now that Mike Sekowsky is doing Supergirl.

Well, that's about it. You wanted readers' opinions, and now you've got mine—harsh though it may be. After this rather pessimistic review, I'm optimistically hoping for something better in the Nov. ish. Please don't let me down.

Gregory Kent, Goleta, Calif.

(We hope we didn't, Greg. By the way, you're right about the many letters praising the Thorn. Yours was one of the few negative responses.—E.N.B.)

*****

Dear Mr. Bridwell:

Congratulations! You've finally hit the big time! Although following in the footsteps of the great Mort Weisinger is a job, I'm sure you can do it.

But let's get down to business. LOIS LANE #105 was indeed eventful in that it included the origin of Rose and the Thorn. Apparently LL is going to be a two-feature

mag from now on, but don't you dare use this as an excuse for making all the Lois stories mediocre. I like Lois to be independent (with Superman, of course) and not a springboard for the second story.

When I saw the first page of "Night of the Thorn," I thought she was going to be a "female Batman," but I was wrong. The only other hero with an "unknown subconscious identity" that I can recall was Super-Hip in the old BOB HOPE comic, but I guess that doesn't count. The contrast between the innocent Rose and the violent Thorn is striking, and her quest is even better than Jason's (and permanent!). You could have Superman give her a helping hand, but I think it'd be better for her to go it alone.

Jesus Monteagudo, Miami, Fla.

(Several readers mentioned that there have been villains *with split personalities, but so far none has come up with the fact that one of the first of these, who appeared over twenty years ago, in FLASH COMICS #89, was* The Thorn! *That Flash story was written by Robert Kanigher, the same man who turned the character into a heroine for the new LOIS.—E.N.B.)*

*****

Dear Editor:

Sorry to say, I gave up my entire DC comics collection a few weeks ago, because the stories and artwork were childish and disgusting (except for ADVENTURE #397 and WONDER WOMAN #190, the only DC's I have left). Well, in the letter column of ADVENTURE, it said something about a new heroine in LOIS LANE #105. So I bought it (out of curiosity), and was pleasantly surprised! Yes, gentlemen, I like the Thorn! The idea of a distraught girl having a super-heroine split personality is totally unique in the field of comics! I'll keep on reading LOIS LANE as long as the Thorn is featured.

DC is shaping up. Have I given it up—only to read it again with renewed interest? If all your mags are like LL #105, I guess I will continue DC.

Sharon Karibian, New York, N.Y.

(Looks like we headed you off at the pass just in time to avoid losing a reader! Glad to hear it!—E.N.B.)

*****

Dear Mr. Bridwell:

If anyone had told me last year at this time that I would have taken the time out to comment on an issue of LOIS LANE, I would have told him he was completely out of his mind. To be perfectly honest, any comment on the magazine was a sheer waste of time. First, the stories were geared for the pre-fifteen-year-old; second, the only way one could express his opinion was to write it on a postal card; finally, the only editorial answer a person received was a wisecrack. And as this was the case with all the Superman Family (except SUPERBOY), the only reason I purchased these magazines was out of a loyalty brought about by nine years of steady collecting.

Then, bang! suddenly, it is announced that there will be a bold, new approach to the Superman magazines—an overdo facelifting. Therefore, when the "new" LOIS LANE came out, I seized this as an opportunity to express what I feel.

First off, I consider the art the most essential part of a comic magazine. If the art is not pleasing to the eye, I do not think the story has a chance. The best artist LOIS LANE ever had was Kurt Schaffenberger. He was replaced by Irv Novick. However Irv never seemed to give his all to the strip. Then Curt Swan was assigned to Lois. In my opinion, he fared even worse than did Novick. Curt's Lois stories always seemed too hurried. He should be drawing Superman and only Superman. Now, this issue, we have been treated to another style—that of Andru and Esposito (assisted in the opening story by Saaf—who he?). I must admit the art of Andru and Esposito has always been a favorite of mine, and I would be very happy if that were the art I found in every issue.

Next, the story content of the magazine should be discussed. I notice that there are finally credits given to the author of each story. It really bugged me not to know who to commend or condemn for a particular script. Robert Kanigher's opening story was still reminiscent of the old Lois even though it was a bit more realistic than past stories have been. But the second story—wow! The Thorn has got to be one of the most original characters I have seen in a long time. With a little time, she could easily gain her own magazine. This brings me to a pet fear: whenever a character is introduced in a co-starring role in a mag, he or she usually succeeds in taking it over entirely. Remember, the mag belongs to Lois. You might follow the format used in DETECTIVE COMICS—a fifteen-page leadoff story (of Lois), followed by one-half of a sixteen-page Thorn story, to be continued next issue.

I would like to conclude with a statement that will be perhaps trite by the time this letter is (hopefully) printed—congratulations on your new post as editor of LL and good luck.

Frank Mazzarella, South Orange, N.J.

(Thank you! Artie Saaf, who co-pencilled that one Lois tale, is best-known as a romance artist. We have been using 8-page Thorn tales, but next issue we will start a two-parter. And don't worry—if The Thorn ever gets her own mag, it won't be LOIS LANE!—E.N.B.)

*****

Now a couple of selections from the many other letters we've received:

Robert Kanigher, hop on the next plane to Oregon so I can kiss you. Only a grade-A genius could have written "Death House Honeymoon."

Candy Moore, Coquille, Ore.

I especially liked Rose and The Thorn. I am looking forward to seeing much more of her. I don't really know why I like Rose, but maybe it's because she has the same haircut as I do!!!!!

Linda Hamilton, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

(Thanks to all. We hope you continue liking our mag. Remember, the address for all comments is LETTERS TO LOIS AND ROSE. National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.—E.N.B.)

"MOURN for the THORN!"

SCRIPT: ROBERT KANIGHER
PENCILS: ROSS ANDRU
INKS: MIKE ESPOSITO

ON DISPLAY AT RIVERVIEW CHAPEL, BRAZENLY DONATED BY THE 100, A SOLID GOLD COFFIN GAPES IN VAIN FOR THE ELUSIVE THORN--SWORN ENEMY OF METROPOLIS' CENTIPEDE OF CRIME!
SOLID GOLD COFFIN DONATED BY THE 100--FOR THE THORN!
N-167

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE VIXEN OF VENGEANCE NOT ONLY ELUDES THE 100'S CONTRACT KILLERS, BUT EVEN TRAPS THEM FOR THE POLICE... UNTIL...
SUPERMAN! THE THORN --DEAD!
I NEVER THOUGHT THE 100 WOULD FINALLY GET HER, LOIS! SHE SEEMED INVINCIBLE!
SHE DESERVES A HEROINE'S FUNERAL! I'LL CONTACT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TO GIVE HER ONE!
1

IN ETERNAL SLEEP, THE THORN'S FACE IS A SERENE MASK OF PALE IVORY...
BUT ONCE, THE NYMPH OF NIGHT'S EYES BLAZED WITH WHITE-HOT FURY MORE DAZZLING THAN THE SEARING LASH OF LIGHTNING!
I SWEAR I WILL NOT REST, FATHER, UNTIL I HUNT DOWN THE 100 FOR YOUR MURDER! ONE BY ONE!
ONCE, HER HEAD-COUNT OF KILLERS TRACKING HER ROSE RELENTLESSLY...
ONE!
TWO!
THREE!

BUT EVEN AS HER AVENGING ADDITION OF THE 100'S ASSASSINS MOUNTED STEADILY...
I'M SUBTRACTIN' YOU, TH--
I'M ADDING YOU! NO. 23!
SHE SEEMED TO BEAR A CHARMED LIFE, WARDING OFF ONE LEG OF THE CRIME CENTIPEDE AFTER ANOTHER...
YOU'VE SCRATCHED YOUR LAST, YOU ALLEY CAT! THIS IS A DEAD END FOR Y--
I'M TAKING A DETOUR!
POW
24
NO. 24-- DAD!
THE BALEFUL BEAUTY'S COUNT SUDDENLY ENDED WHEN...
THE 100 AIN'T STINGY WITH ITS CONTRACT MONEY, THORN! THEY SENT US OUT IN PAIRS TO MAKE THE HIT!
INEXORABLY TRAPPED... ENVELOPED IN A SHROUD OF DEADLY FUMES...
CARBON MON... OXIDE... FU...MES--
DIDN'T ANYONE WARN YOU AIR POLLUTION KIN KILL YOU, THORN?
FOOOOOSH
DON'T YOU READ THE DAILY PLANET? LOIS LANE WRITES THE AIR IN METROPOLIS AIN'T FIT TO BREATHE! HA-HA-HA!
SKREEEE
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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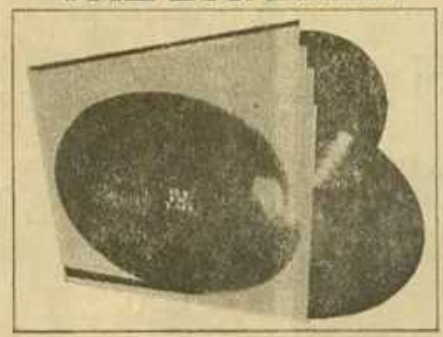
AND SO, THE CRIME SYNDICATE FINALLY COUNTED THE THORN IN ITS SIDE, OUT!
THE THORN'S ALWAYS DROPPIN' NUMBERS ON THE 100! NOW THE 100'S DROPPIN' ONE ON HER! HA-HA-HA!
100
SHORTLY...
TOO BAD THE THORN CAN'T SEE HER SOLID GOLD COFFIN'S A PERFECT FIT!
NOT BAD... CONSIDERIN' SHE NEVER CAME IN FOR A FITTIN'... HAW!
AT THE APPROACH OF THE CHAPEL OWNER...
I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK NO ONE WOULD MAKE THE HIT! YOU DESERVE YOUR BONUS!
NOW HUSTLE TO OUR HIDEOUT UNTIL THE HEAT'S OFF!
CALL US WHEN YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER CONTRACT! WE ALWAYS DELIVER!
YOU'RE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, THORN! FRIENDLESS, NAMELESS! WHO'LL MOURN FOR YOU?
SHORTLY... THE PASSING LOIS AND SUPERMAN ARE SADDENED BY...
THE THORN'S STORY CAN NEVER BE TOLD NOW! SHE'LL ALWAYS REMAIN AN EERIE ENIGMA!
WAS SHE GOOD... OR EVIL?
MAYBE A MIXTURE OF BOTH, LOIS! I'M GOING TO JLA HEADQUARTERS TO ARRANGE FOR HER FUNERAL!
4

BUT, MOMENTS LATER...
I REPRESENT "FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDLESS"! WE CLAIM THE UNCLAIMED DEAD!
VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU! YOU MAY CLAIM THE DECEASED, MADAM!
WE WISH TO MOURN THE THORN FOR 24 HOURS, AT OUR MANSION OF MOURNING! BEFORE WE BURY HER!
AT THE BACK OF THE CHAPEL...
WE'LL LEAVE THE GOLD COFFIN WITH YOU, SIR! IT DOES NOT FIT THIS SAD OCCASION... OR OUR SIMPLE CEREMONY!
OF COURSE, MADAM! I UNDERSTAND! I'LL MELT IT DOWN FOR CHARITY!
LATER, AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF METROPOLIS... AS SINISTER SHADOWS STRANGLE THE MOON...
SLOW UP! THERE'S OUR DESTINATION! THE THORN'S LAST STOP BEFORE THE BOTTOMLESS BEYOND!
WELCOME TO THE MANSION OF MOURNING!
DIG THAT "MANSION OF MOURNIN'" BIT!
IT TAKES THE 100 TO THINK UP A GIMMICK LIKE THAT AS A COVER FOR A HIDEOUT FOR HOT LAMSTERS LIKE US! HA-HA-HA!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
5

Warner/Reprise Announces Its Biggest Bargain:

THE BIG BALL



Over 20 outstanding record artists meet in an all-new and grossly underpriced ($2) two-record set.

All the artists whose beauty you can see above, plus lots more (like Gordon Lightfoot, Tim Buckley, Ed Sanders of the Fugs, the Mothers, the Fifth Avenue Band...) are giving up their royalties to bring you THE BIG BALL. What this means is that for two bucks you can get mailed to your home, hovel, or box a classy two-record album, 28 stereo selections crammed with good musical things on four full sides, all new stuff for 1970.

With unaccustomed grace, Warner/Reprise is not making a buck on any of this. In supermarkets this sort of thing is called a loss leader, but in the record biz it's a very suspicious thing to do. Anyway...

There's only one way to get THE BIG BALL: by mail. No retail merchants. No stores. No markups. Should you be justifiably wary of mail order hypes, we can't blame you. We have, however, a happy history of doing good by mail. THE BIG BALL's two ancestors, SONGBOOK and RECORD SHOW, were sent to a whole lot of satisfied orderers-by-mail in 1969. (In case you missed those previous epics, we provide you with their pictures and order form here.)

RECORD SHOW: Two LPs featuring Jethro Tull, Peter, Paul & Mary, Kinks, Mothers of Invention, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Van Dyke Parks and lots of others.

SONGBOOK: Two full albums starring Jimi Hendrix, Arlo Guthrie, Everly Bros., Pentangle, Fugs, Sweetwater and a host more.

About one of these epics some long-haired creep from Richmond, Virginia wrote us, "Got your Songbook and Record Show things. Well, I finally found a record company that gives a damn. Bless your hearts."

We have a hunch he was right. There's only one way you can find out if the good fairy is still breathing. It's called the nearby coupon....

That done, we'll send you our extravagant BIG BALL set, featuring such delights as:

- One of John Sebastian's brand-newest songs.
- James Taylor's title track from his new album—"Sweet Baby James."
- Fleetwood Mac's fantastic "Oh Well."
- A released-only-in-England Kinks song.
- Pentangle's new version of classic oldie, "Sally Go Round the Roses."
- And about 23 other lovelies...

THE BIG BALL (plus such others as you have the cash for) will then be got to you as fast as the clowns in our mail room can pull it all together.

To: THE BIG BALL • Room 208 — 99
Warner Bros. Records, Burbank, Ca. 91506
Dear Big Ball:
Please send me what I've checked, and do it as fast as you can:

- ☐ THE BIG BALL LP ($2)
- ☐ RECORD SHOW LP ($2)
- ☐ SONGBOOK LP ($2)

Name _____
Address _____
_____
Make checks payable to Warner Bros. Records

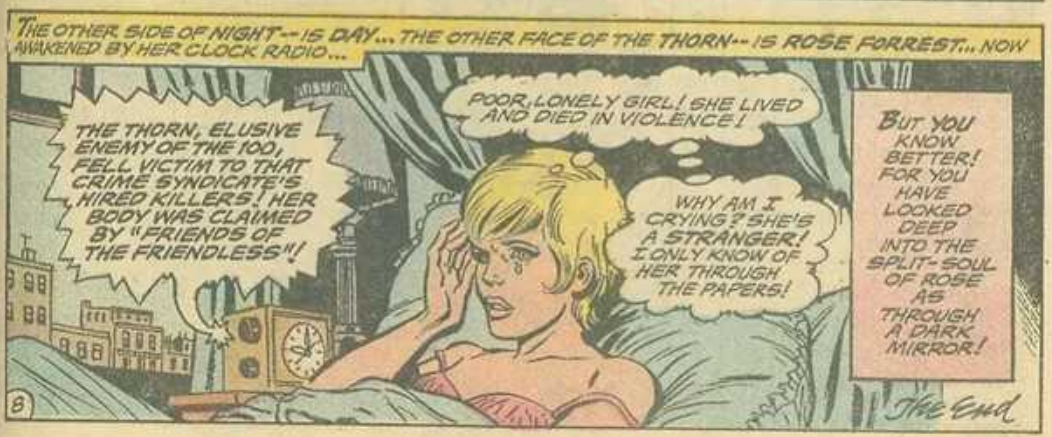
THE NIGHT SHRINKS BEFORE THE LASH OF LIGHTNING...
WELCOME TO THE 100'S PRIVATE CEMETERY FOR POLICE INFORMERS, HONEST WITNESSES, AND FOOLISH ENEMIES LIKE-- THE THORN!
LOOK OUT! YOU DROPPED HER!
'IT'S RAININ'! LET'S SHOVE HER UNDER BEFORE I CATCH A COLD!
THUD
AS RAIN TUGS WITH CHILL FINGERS AT THE EERIE ENIGMA...
THE SKIES CRACK WITH SUDDEN DREAD...
TH-THE THORN-- RISEN FROM THE DEAD!
FROM A DEATH-LIKE-COMA! A SIDE-EFFECT FROM AN OVERDOSE I TOOK OF MY FATHER'S SPECIAL CARDIAC MEDICATION!
I WAS TRAPPED... MY ONE OUT WAS TO FAKE DEATH! I WAS ALWAYS READY... JUST IN CASE!
6

LETHAL AS BLAZING LIGHTNING, THE THORN WHIRLS WITH LASHING FURY, LIKE A DEMENTED DANGER, AT THE CONFUSED KILLERS...
I D-DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!
I SAW HER DROP M-MYSELF--?
THONK!
THUD!
W-WHY DIDN'T THE CARBON MONOXIDE KILL HER?
KPOW
NOSE FILTERS I ALWAYS WEAR PROTECTED ME! I'VE NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATED THE 100!
THUD!
7

AT THE SOUND OF A POLICE SIREN, THE NYMPH OF NIGHT PAUSES ONLY TO RESUME HER COUNT OF THE 100'S HOODS...
VEEEEEE
25
26
27
28
29

RACING BEFORE THE REVEALING FINGER OF DAWN...
I WAS SURE THE 100 WOULDN'T BOTHER WITH AN AUTOPSY OR EMBALMING... SO I WAS SAFE IN MY COMA... PROVIDED I WOKE UP BEFORE THE BURIAL!

...THE THORN MAKES HER STARTLING METAMORPHOSIS INTO THE DUAL PERSONALITY WHO IS UTTERLY UNAWARE OF HER NIGHTMARE-RIDDEN OTHER SELF -- ROSE!
FATHER... I'LL... NOT... REST... TILL... I... AVENGE... YOUR... MURDER...


THE OTHER SIDE OF NIGHT -- IS DAY... THE OTHER FACE OF THE THORN -- IS ROSE FORREST... NOW AWAKENED BY HER CLOCK RADIO...
THE THORN, ELUSIVE ENEMY OF THE 100, FELL VICTIM TO THAT CRIME SYNDICATE'S HIRED KILLERS! HER BODY WAS CLAIMED BY "FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDLESS"!
POOR, LONELY GIRL! SHE LIVED AND DIED IN VIOLENCE!
WHY AM I CRYING? SHE'S A STRANGER! I ONLY KNOW OF HER THROUGH THE PAPERS!
BUT YOU KNOW BETTER! FOR YOU HAVE LOOKED DEEP INTO THE SPLIT-SOUL OF ROSE AS THROUGH A DARK MIRROR!
8
The End

Pin-up

SUPERMAN

1971 CALENDAR

JAN

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Dinosaur

Eagle Flying

ONLY $1.70

President Nixon

Little Equipment Needed

All you need to start is a candle, or flashlight, or spotlight, a white sheet, or a home-movie screen, or just a plain wall, and of course, the book *The Art of Hand Shadows*. There is practically no investment to get started in shadowography as a hobby or a possible show-biz career. Find out how easy it is by mailing the coupon.

ILLUSTRATED

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from HOLLOWAY

M. J. HOLLOWAY & CO.
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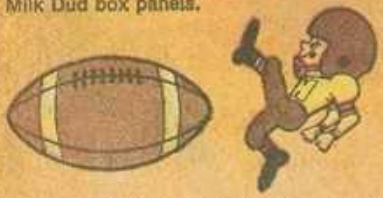
BEATRICE

GET THIS PRO-SIZE FOOTBALL OR GIRL'S CHEERLEADER JERSEY

ONLY $2.00 plus 2 wrappers from Slo-Poke, Black Cow or 2 Milk Dud box panels.



BOYS! Pass, punt, play! Have fun with this regulation size and weight rubber football. "Pigskin" grained for better gripping: Strong! Rugged! Takes all the punishment!

GIRLS! Standout! Lead the crowd in this yellow eye-catching cheerleader Jersey. 100% cotton. Color fast. Styled for action—great for casual fun. Your first name printed on brown megaphone.

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FOOT-BALL ☐ JERSEY ☐ Check size wanted ☐ Small 6-8 ☐ Med. 10-12 ☐ Large 14-16

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Offer void in States where prohibited.

E

MUSCLES OF STEEL

Results in just 30 days

Pocket gym slabs inches of muscle on your arms and torso. Gain the respect of your friends ... the admiration of the girls. Keep fit and healthy. Fear no one! Made of heavy rubber.

No. 7001 — only $1.00

8 MM MOTION PICTURE PROJECTOR

COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE

HAVE ALL THE FUN OF PRIVATE MOVIES NOW AT THIS LOW PRICE

Precision engineered and compact. Completely portable in its own case. Needs no electric outlet since it is battery operated. Simple and safe to use. Its double lens focusing is sure and easy for bright, clear pictures. Only $6.98 plus 75c for postage and handling or send $1.00 cash with deposit and pay postman balance on delivery plus COD and postage charges. Add $2.98 for each additional pair of Miracle Specs.

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FEATURES:
- Sturdy Construction
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FREE: NEW THRILLING SENSATION

Add 3-D literary effect with "Miracle Specs" which makes people look as full and real as you can reach out and touch them. One size comes with each projector. Additional pairs are $2.98 each.

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AN HILARIOUS OPTICAL ILLUSION

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Scientific optical principle really works with Xray Specs. You learn to be able to look through flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friends that really fool you ... under their clothes!

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FREE NERVE CENTER CHART

Here's what you get!
- 25 Best KARATE blows and chops
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Deck is marked and stripped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks.

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Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 5 slices to a pack.

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Coin-operating Jack Pot Bank works like the one owned basket on Las Vegas. Deposit the dime and spin the handle. Reels spin and look like the real stuff. Dimers are removable. Should not be used for gambling purposes.

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IMITATION **BULLET HOLES**

A laugh riot! Actual copies of Real Bullet Holes ONLY

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Just slip it into the exhaust pipe of your friend's car ... then watch him when he starts the engine! The shrills and noises will make him think the motor's about to blow up or fall apart ... while you roar with laughter.

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This magic book gives the addresses of manufacturers, retail agencies, and manufacturers that are anxious to send you ABSOLUTELY FREE samples, manuals, and books. A fabulous treasure trove completely up to date which will bring you gifts worth many times its low cost.

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Develop your hidden hypnotic powers to control the minds and bodies of men and women. Learn to perform amazing feats and entertain at parties. Easily learned from the new book "25 Lessons in Hypnotism."

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PEN SIZE—CLIPS ON YOUR POCKET. 6 POWER MAGNIFIER

Six power wide field magnifier is great for watching sporting events, nature study, girl watching and counter spying. Also contains a 30 power microscope. Not a toy but a real optical instrument.

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SEE BEHIND GLASSES

A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing you're watching. Really comes in handy at times.

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Learn eleven strong man stunts which you can easily perform to astonish your audience. Book includes the Man must be building course—A real buy

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A 4 — $1.50

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WITH COMBINATION LOCK ONLY YOU CAN OPEN

Looks like any book to camouflage your valuables. Securely locked with your own private combination. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding.

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Ordinary looking cake of soap until victim washes with it. Then his face turns blacker and blacker. Shocking! Harmless! A great trick.

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Throw your voice into stumps, behind doors, everywhere. Fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."

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Bigger than life Frankenstein, the man made monster. Giant 7 foot tall, his eyes glow eerily in authentic color on durable polyethelene, as scary as your wildest nightmare.

No. 865 — $1.00

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No. F200 — $1.00

The latest miracle of modern science is in just together an X Ray machine in the space of a 3" cardboard tube. Look at your hand through this tube and it will look just like an X Ray.

A86 — 25¢

SURPRISE PACKAGE

WILL YOU TAKE A CHANCE? We won't tell you what you get but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.

No. 678 — Only 50c

MONEY MAKER

Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob, and OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to a $10.

A 135 — $1.25

JOY BUZZER

Windup novelty you wear like a ring. Your victim gets a "SHOCKING" hand shake. Absolutely harmless.

No. 238 — Only 50c

SKIN HEAD WIG

Most people try to grow hair. This is just the opposite. Made of flesh toned latex to fit all heads, really changes your appearance.

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Something new in target throwing. In case you miss, it returns to you and bingo! you're set to "fire" again. Great fun and skill.

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Sorry, we cannot ship orders for less than $1.00. Kindly add 15c for postage and handling to all orders.

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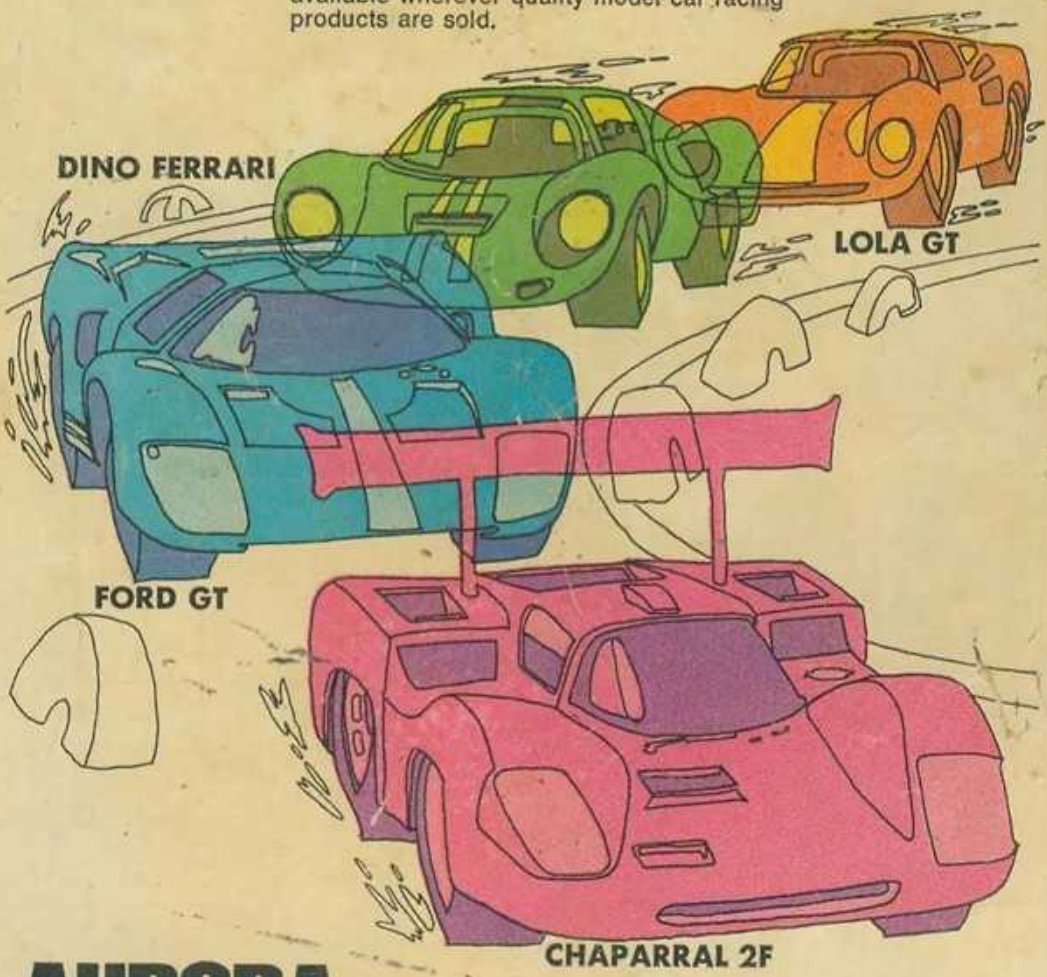

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